

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 432 180

HE 032 173

AUTHOR Hubbard, Philip G.
 TITLE My Iowa Journey: The Life Story of the University of Iowa's First African American Professor. Singular Lives: The Iowa Series in North American Autobiography.
 ISBN ISBN-0-87745-672-0
 PUB DATE 1999-06-01
 NOTE 228p.
 AVAILABLE FROM Chicago Distribution Center, 11030 South Langley St., Chicago, IL 60628; Tel: 800-621-2736 (toll free); Web site: www.uiowa.edu/~uipress (\$22.95, plus \$3.50 shipping and handling).
 PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Historical Materials (060)
 EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
 DESCRIPTORS Administrator Attitudes; Autobiographies; *Black Teachers; Change Agents; Civil Rights; College Administration; *College Faculty; Educational Policy; Engineering; Higher Education; Personal Narratives; State Universities
 IDENTIFIERS African Americans; *University of Iowa

ABSTRACT

This autobiography recounts the life story of an African American educator at the University of Iowa from 1965 to 1991, as its first African American professor and then as its first African American administrator. The book recounts his childhood and family relations, his student years at the university and his graduation as an electrical engineer, his employment as a teacher, and his experiences of discrimination. The professor's major accomplishments during his tenure as an administrator as establishing policies that focused on human rights and which transformed the makeup of the student body are defined, as well as its faculty and staff, by seeking to eliminate discrimination based on race, religion, or other nonacademic factors and by substituting affirmative action for the traditional old-boy methods of selecting faculty and administrators. The book is organized into four sections which cover (1) the early years (his childhood and moving to Iowa); (2) the engineering years (schooling and teaching); (3) the administrative years (dealing with issues of in loco parentis, student turbulence, human rights, and diversity); and (4) the free years (retirement). (DB)

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